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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/07

TAGS: AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL, WHA ASDAR OF FEBRUARY 06, 2001

FOR AMB, DCM, POL, ECON

CLASSIFIED BY JOHN R. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF  
MEXICAN AFFAIRS, REASON 1.5(D).

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS TAKEN FROM THE WHA/MEX ASDAR FEBRUARY  
06, 2001.

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BEGIN TEXT.

1. (C) MEXICAN CONGRESS REPORTEDLY FAVORS MILITARY  
PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS: ACCORDING TO  
PRESS REPORTS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FAVOR MEXICO'S MILITARY  
PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS  
PROVIDED THAT SUCH MISSIONS GET APPROVAL FROM THE SENATE  
AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND ARE NOT IN LATIN AMERICA OR  
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY OF THE CHAMBER OF  
DEPUTIES FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION TOLD EMBOFF, HOWEVER,  
THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE OPEN TO EXAMINING ON A CASE-BY-CASE  
BASIS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING EXERCISES, IN  
INDIVIDUAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHERE CONDITIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONNA M DIPAOLLO  
DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAY 2009 200806608

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WARRANT. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WOULD REQUIRE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, WHICH COULD COME ABOUT AS EARLY AS THIS SPRING. (BEAM, MEXICO 799)

2. (U) CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES AXED: VARIOUS PRESS REPORTED FEBRUARY 2 THAT MEXICAN CUSTOMS CHIEF JOSE GUZMAN FIRED 90 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 45 OF 47 DIRECTORS OF CUSTOMS OFFICES NATIONWIDE AND THAT THE REMAINING TWO WOULD BE FIRED THIS WEEK. THE MOVE IS CONSISTENT WITH PRESIDENT FOX'S PLEDGE TO ROOT OUT CORRUPTION EVERYWHERE AND COMES JUST DAYS AFTER AN INFAMOUS STORY THAT A 3-TON ELEPHANT NAMED BENNY HAD BEEN SPIRITED ACROSS THE BORDER FROM TEXAS INTO MEXICO. A MEXICO CITY CIRCUS OWNER SAID HE PAID A \$4,500 BRIBE TO MEXICAN CUSTOMS AGENTS TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY AS BENNY CROSSED THE BORDER. (BEAM, PRESS REPORTS)

3. (U) INS INITIATES "OPERATION CROSSROADS": IN LATE  
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JANUARY, THE INS INITIATED "OPERATION CROSSROADS" TO DISRUPT/DETER ALIEN SMUGGLING. THE NEWEST EFFORT BY THE SERVICE WILL CONCENTRATE IN THE ARIZONA/NEVADA AREA WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN PHOENIX AND MCCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN LAS VEGAS. APPROXIMATELY 100 SPECIALLY TRAINED AGENTS WILL PARTICIPATE. INS HOPES THE EFFORT WILL BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN "OPERATION DENIAL," A SIMILAR OPERATION FROM AUGUST-OCTOBER 2000 THAT NETTED 2,700 ARRESTS AT THE TWO AIRPORTS IN ONLY THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF OPERATION. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS OPPOSE THE OPERATION AS RACIST, STATING THAT "BROWN SKINNED PEOPLE" WILL SUFFER. THE OPERATION WILL ALSO TARGET "DROP HOUSES" IN BOTH STATES WHERE ILLEGAL MIGRANTS STAY AWAITING THE NEXT STEP IN THEIR JOURNEYS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE U.S. (BEAM, PRESS REPORTS)

4. (U) SRE GRANTS EXTRADITION OF CAVALLO: SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS JORGE CASTAEDA LAST FRIDAY GRANTED EXTRADITION TO SPAIN OF RICARDO MIGUEL CAVALLO. CAVALLO WAS ARRESTED IN CANCUN LAST AUGUST AND SPAIN REQUESTED HIS EXTRADITION WHERE JUDGE BALTASAR GARZON HAD NAMED CAVALLO IN AN INDICTMENT OF 98 ARGENTINES ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE KILLINGS AND TORTURE OF SPANISH CITIZENS DURING THE 1976-85 MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN ARGENTINA. A MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDGE RULED ON JANUARY 12 THAT CAVALLO SHOULD BE EXTRADITED TO SPAIN. CAVALLO'S ATTORNEYS WILL SURELY APPEAL THE DECISION, WHICH COULD HOLD UP THE ACTUAL EXTRADITION FOR A YEAR OR MORE. (BEAM, PRESS REPORTS)

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(U) FIRST MEETING OF S&T POLICY NETWORK: ON JAN 30, THE DEPARTMENT'S S&T ADVISER, NORMAN NEUREITER, CONVENED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY NETWORK (STPN). HE REVIEWED SEVERAL INTERN PROGRAMS (NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE) FOR POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AT POST, AND BRIEFED THE GROUP ON THE STATUS OF NASA'S OFFER OF 5 DETAILEES (ONE ALMOST CERTAINLY TO BE STATIONED IN BRAZIL-MOU SHOULD BE READY THIS MONTH). HE ALSO SAID WHA/EX HAS BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT AN EARTH SCIENTIST DETAILEE TO WORK ON DEFORESTATION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT. THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS WILL SOON PLACE ITS FIRST DIPLOMATIC FELLOW IN STATE. OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY, THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, AND THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY ARE INTERESTED IN SETTING UP DIPLOMATIC FELLOWSHIPS. THESE PROGRAMS WOULD HELP THE DEPARTMENT BE RESPONSIVE TO THE DECEMBER 2000 NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD REPORT RECOMMENDING S&T ENHANCEMENTS IN EMBASSIES. NEUREITER PLANS TO HOLD MORE S&T ROUNDTABLES LIKE THE "REMOTE SENSING OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: IMPLICATIONS FOR DIPLOMACY" PROGRAM NEUREITER'S OFFICE SPONSORED IN DECEMBER. WHA WAS ASKED TO REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE USEFULNESS OF BILATERAL S&T AGREEMENTS, I.E., ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA. THE GROUP URGED NEUREITER TO INVOLVE/USE PA/PD MORE, AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE/EXPERTISE ON S&T RELATED TO TRADE, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH. (BOYNTON)

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(U) USOAS HOSTS BRIEFING ON TRAFFICKING PROJECT: WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY'S INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE, BRIEFED 30 STAFFERS FROM STATE, LABOR AND JUSTICE ON THE STUDY: "TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION" BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM) AND THE INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE (IACI). THE STUDY, NOW UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL AMERICA (INCLUDING BELIZE AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC), BRAZIL AND MEXICO, WILL EVENTUALLY INCLUDE JAMAICA, COLOMBIA, CHILE AND ARGENTINA.

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CARTWRIGHT HOPES THE STUDY WILL BE USED AS A "TOOL" FOR GOVERNMENTS, IN CONCERT WITH NGO'S AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST COMBAT TRAFFICKING. USOAS PROVIDED THE START-UP MONEY FOR THE STUDY, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY USAID FUNDS. MORE COUNTRIES MAY BE INCLUDED AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE. (DCENTO)  
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